

## KEARL FACTS

Some fifteen years ago, I obeyed an urge to begin serious research on Kearl lines. I was sure the work would be fairly simple, and fascinating. I have found it complicated and fascinating, --- also frustrating! First the name, which is unusual in the United States and Canada, is found all over England in a dozen different spellings.

Over fifty years ago, James Kearl's daughter, Mrs. Estella Weston, collected names from the National Archives of England and Wales. Her manuscript was given to my mother after her death. I searched this manuscript. The earliest KERLES, Mrs. Weston found in Kent, in the 1100's. From then into the 1800's she found KYRLE in Somerset and Hertford. Currell, Kerrill, Curle, Kerl, Kurl, Kerley, and Kearly she has from other counties of south England. This manuscript has none of those of our own line, or relatives, in Hampshire. She recorded the spelling KEARL only in Gloucester County. However, the name KEARLY is found early and in many places.

Those in Hertford, Kent, and Essex counties are chronicled in the English Peerage Books, such as Burke's THE LANDED GENTRY. As these contain only the inheritors of lands and titles, there are many other brothers who are lost.

I began to read widely in the Ogden and Salt Lake City Genealogical Libraries. From some of this reading, I gleaned helpful facts and clues, but much of it only whetted my desire to learn without giving any specific help.

A personal search of Hampshire, and the bordering county towns, revealed to me:

The name KEARLEY occurs fairly frequently as early as 1500. This spelling as well as the expected KERLLY, or KERLEY, is in Christchurch, where the first KEARL in the Priory records is William KEARL "of this parish" whose banns and marriage are registered in 1791. His wife is ELIZABETH BURTON. This William and Elizabeth appear in the registers of St. Nicholas Church in Brockenhurst in the New Forest when they have three children christened in 1798.

In our searching I have found a number of KEIRLES in London. I telephoned a man by that name in Mesa, Arizona. He was not communicative, but he did say that his parents went from England into South Dakota.

Some of our cousins are believers in the statements of a local historian who claimed that William Kearl was a German immigrant. That would mean he is the first in England; not from any of the existing lines. Burke's genealogies tell us that one DE CROILE was a follower of William the Conqueror who invaded England and won the throne at the Battle of Hastings, in 1066. William created the NEW FOREST as a hunting preserve, moving out many villages and forbidding peasants to build within the forest. He permitted the villages of Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst, and Beaulieu to remain. Naturally, many of these Normans were given lands on the borders, in the southern port towns, and even into Wales. We talked with one CURLE of New

Milton, Hampshire, who claimed his family is descended from the above Norman, De Croile, and that his family is separate from ours. Yet in my extensive correspondence with other genealogists in America, a Mrs. CURL of Ohio, I think it was, wrote that all the CURLES in America are descended through a Hessian deserter from the British Service during the American Revolution.

Now you can see why I am unable to claim definite information concerning the ancestry of William Kearl of Christchurch.

First, William may have been an Englishman for generations, dropping the "Y" ending from his name.

Second, He may have belonged to any of these other ancestral "Kearl" spellings. It is a known fact that his own son was often listed as John Curl. From John's children, thereafter it was KEARL.

Third, William may have been a German immigrant. The English Kings were closely connected with German royalty, and Hampshire was the common ground for those who came into England through Southampton. But professional genealogists tell me it is unlikely that William was a German.

This Kearl genealogy, then, begins with William, relates his children's data as found, then follows the family of John as we know it. We have data on four sons of John to the present, these are Henry, William Albert, and Charles of Fordingbridge. There are pictures from the families of Henry and William Albert, and Charles of Fordingbridge. Unfortunately we did not come into personal contact with members of Charles's descendants, and so our information is incomplete. John's oldest son, John had sons, but only one of these could we trace about two generations. Alfred, just older than James, was a convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and came to Utah with James. However, he died childless, so in as far as we know, all KEARL families in the United States and Canada, using our spelling, are descendants of James Kearl. He was the father of Alfred and twenty-seven other children, twenty-one of whom lived to have families. James had one hundred and fifty grandchildren.

For me it was physically and financially impossible to trace the generations from these grandchildren to the present. A book compiled by a committee representing the James Kearl Family Organization, and edited by Mrs. Alley J. Taylor, was published in 1964. Only those statistics added since that date would be valuable here; other information would be mere repeating. The JAMES KEARL FAMILY HISTORY can be found in libraries across the country, and can still be purchased from Mrs. Taylor.

I knew I had to limit, therefore I began with the idea of including the generations of the children of James and Ann Burton Kearl. I sent out an appeal to the representatives in each son's or daughter's line. Only a few responded. I apologize now to those whose material I am unable to include because it was meager and incomplete.

Mrs. Eunice Bevans Duce sent in a beautifully prepared genealogy on her father's family; Mrs. Viola Wynder brought most of her family up to date; Mrs. Juliet Kearl Low was too ill to complete her share of the descendants of Julietta Kearl Bevans. Aunt Julietta, with her husband Frank Bevans, was

the one daughter of James and Ann Kearl to go into Alberta Province, Canada, to settle about 1892. One son, James William Burton Kearl, and two sons of James and Merlin Eastham Kearl joined "Jim and Ette" in the colonization of Cardston and other neighboring towns of southern Alberta. Thus, three brothers --- James, John, and George have descendants in western Canada.

Three brothers were remaining in Laketown, Rich County, Utah, out of all the children of James and Ann. James and Merlin also had two sons who built ranches in Round Valley, and belonged to the community of Laketown. These are Willis and Morton Kearl.

Alfred purchased land on the slopes of the valley, and built up a cattle and sheep ranch in partnership with his brother Manasseh (Byrd) Kearl. Together they worked until their hay and grain lands spread across the valley; their pasture and range lands extended west to the border of the Cache National Forest. In the early years from 1898 until his early death, a third brother, Jasper, worked closely with them. The families of the three men grew up together. The sons worked on the ranch; the daughters often spent their summers helping to cook for hired men. So, it is right that Jasper and Bryd should have their genealogies chronicled here. They were most closely knit as brothers; their wives and children associated closely for many years. Alf and Bryd maintained their partnership until they decided they needed separate lands for their eight sons. Alfred bought out Byrd in the home ranch, and Byrd purchased a ranch on the Bear River, near Randolph, Rich County, Utah. Byrd was the cattleman, so he retained the cattle; Alfred retained the sheep and the sawmill their father installed about 1880.

We the children of Alfred are proud of all the Uncles and Aunts we knew in our youth, and especially remember with love Byrd and Jasper and their families. We are proud to record the charts on our Aunt's family; an Aunt we did not know, but whose children and grandchildren are our good friends as well as our cousins. We regret deeply we cannot introduce all the family of James to our English cousins. Without question, all those I have been privileged to know in seventy-two years are citizens of value, folks to love and claim with pleasure.

The chart on the following ancestral page will help the reader to judge relationship between English and American cousins, in the generations from John Kearl to the present.

VERA LEE KEARL MARSHALL